

Balanced Budget Amendment, I was deeply disappointed when the President and his Congress allies blocked such an essential reform.

Robert Myers, former Chief Actuary and Deputy Commissioner for the Social Security Administration has stated that, "Regaining control of our fiscal affairs is the most important step we can take to protect the soundness of the Social Security trust funds. I urge the Congress to make that goal a reality."

Mr. Speaker, we can make a balanced budget a reality. We can save Social Security. I pledge today that I will introduce a Balanced Budget Amendment next Congress and will do all I can to see that it passes. For our seniors, ourselves, and our children, it is imperative that we gain control of our budget and ensure the safety and solvency of the Social Security program.

Moreover, with fiscal responsibility, I believe we can provide another much-needed service to our seniors—tax relief. The Senior Coalition has developed a straightforward six-point tax relief plan. It is as follows:

Repeal the earnings limit on Social Security; repeal the 1993 tax increase on Social Security benefits; reduce capital gains tax from 20% to 15%; eliminate the Federal inheritance tax, or "death tax," and make health insurance 100% deductible for small business.

Much of this common-sense plan was incorporated in the tax relief bill which passed in the House of Representatives on September 26 this year. Known as the Taxpayer Relief Act, the Republican tax cut plan will return to Americans 10 percent of the surplus in the form of tax cuts, while reserving the remaining 90 percent of the surplus to save Social Security. As a cosponsor of legislation to reduce taxes on Social Security, capital gains, marriage, and inheritance, I was pleased to support this proposal. Given the importance of this bill to seniors, I was surprised and saddened by the President's veto threat.

Mr. Speaker, isn't it time Congress listen to America's seniors? The groups I heard from this week have some great ideas. While Republicans have made strides toward tax relief and fiscal responsibility, I know we can do more. We must. Next year, I plan to use these ideas and introduce a Balanced Budget Act and a taxpayer relief bill. I urge my colleagues to listen to their elders and join me in this pursuit.

#### DESIGNATION OF THE NORTH/ SOUTH CENTER IN HONOR OF DANTE B. FASCELL

#### HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 1998*

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to support the passage of H.R. 4757 in the House of Representatives, which recognizes the many contributions made by our former colleague, Dante B. Fascell.

This legislation names the University of Miami's North-South Center after Chairman Fascell, and I believe it is a tribute that is well-deserved and long overdue. Having served with Dante for 16 years, I know that Chairman Fascell was the driving force behind the creation of the North-South Center, which has been working for more than fourteen years to im-

prove relations between the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. I think it only proper that the building he helped to erect at his alma mater, the University of Miami, should bear his name.

Few members who have served during my tenure in the House have possessed the understanding and appreciation for the nuances of foreign policy as Dante Fascell did. His memorable leadership of the Foreign Affairs Committee here in Congress is his legacy, particularly his strong views on U.S. policy toward Latin America and his deep concern for international human rights. And thus it is fitting that the North/South Center will carry his name into the future, permanently recognizing the many contributions he has made.

When he retired in 1992, Florida lost one of its finest Representatives, and the House lost one of its greatest statesmen. I wanted to take this opportunity today, now that the House has acted on the bill H.R. 4757, to express my appreciation to all of my colleagues who joined this effort.

#### HONORING MONSIGNOR JEROME BOXLEITNER

#### HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNEAPOLIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 1998*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend the work of an inspirational leader from my district, Msgr. Jerome Boxleitner. Msgr. Boxleitner, the executive director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, has recently announced his plans to retire after 35 years of social work and 21 years as the Catholic Charities founding leader.

I've been pleased to work with Msgr. Boxleitner on key issues such as homeless shelters, hunger, and the social services which are so essential in meeting the needs of the vulnerable in our community. His professionalism and personal effort has made a wonderful and enormous difference.

Msgr. Boxleitner worked tirelessly to build Catholic Charities, an institution which aids a variety of disadvantaged people, from the homeless to troubled children. It is now the largest private provider of human services in the Twin Cities, with 75 programs in 30 locations which are staffed by 600 employees and 12,000 volunteers.

Msgr. Boxleitner rightly emphasizes the importance of taking the time to recognize each person served by Catholic Charities as an individual, rather than categorizing them as just one of many in need of help. Literally thousands of people have benefited from Msgr. Boxleitner's compassion, selfless service and leadership.

I have included, for my colleague's review, article which appeared in *The Catholic Spirit*, the weekly newsletter of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. This article outlines Msgr. Boxleitner's achievements and contributions to our community.

Msgr. Boxleitner is a truly great example of those who make the Twin Cities a wonderful place to live. We are all richer for his friendship, example, and service that he has so generously given to our community. It is with heartfelt thanks and gratitude that I wish him

the best of health and a well deserved retirement.

[From the *Catholic Spirit*, Oct. 16, 1998]

THE GOSPEL, ACCORDING TO MSGR.  
BOXLEITNER, IS WITH POOR

Msgr. J. Jerome Boxleitner said that working with the needy was where he found satisfaction both as an occupation and in his priesthood.

"It was fulfilling for me—I think that's where the Gospel is, working with the poor," said Msgr. Boxleitner, who is stepping down as executive director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis after 35 years of social work and 21 years as Catholic Charities' founding leader.

On Oct. 13, Archbishop Harry J. Flynn announced Msgr. Boxleitner's retirement, effective Dec. 31.

Father Larry Snyder, Catholic Charities associate director, will succeed him on Jan. 1, 1999.

A priest of the archdiocese for 42 years, Msgr. Boxleitner was a parish priest for five years before pursuing graduate studies in social work at Catholic University of America in Washington.

He earned a master's degree in 1963 and became director of Catholic Welfare Services of Minneapolis. He led the consolidation of four Catholic social service agencies, creating Catholic Charities in 1977.

Under his leadership Catholic Charities grew to an organization of more than 600 employees and more than 12,000 volunteers.

Today, Catholic Charities serves men, women and children in the 12 counties of the archdiocese through more than 75 programs in 33 locations. During the past year, Catholic Charities provided emergency services to 91,175 persons and provided social services to 70,761 persons.

"It's a good agency, and it's got a good reputation," Msgr. Boxleitner said when asked what he takes the greatest pride in from his years with Catholic Charities.

"What I like most is that the staff, the board and the volunteers see the poor as peers not as objects of pity."

"Sure, there is some of the thought that there but for the grace of God go I, but the people of Catholic Charities have great respect for the people that we serve," he said.

In announcing that Msgr. Boxleitner would become director emeritus of Catholic Charities, Archbishop Flynn said the 67-year-old priest would continue to be an advocate in the community for several issues that he has championed throughout his career.

"Msgr. Boxleitner opens our eyes and our hearts to the poor," the archbishop said. "He knows the importance of helping people to self-sufficiency while never minimizing their immediate needs."

In March, Gov. Arne Carlson presented Msgr. Boxleitner with a certificate of commendation from the State of Minnesota for outstanding service.

"Msgr. Boxleitner truly epitomizes all that is good in life," Gov. Carlson said.

"He is the embodiment of what religion is: love, compassion and selfless service to mankind. And he tops it all off with a delightful sense of humor."

Earlier in his career Msgr. Boxleitner was Minnesota Corrections Person of the Year as chaplain at the state prison in Lino Lakes, a ministry he still continues.

From 1983-85 he chaired the national Catholic Charities USA. That group's current president, Jesuit Father Fred Kammer, pointed to him as a national leader concerned with the common good.

"Msgr. Boxleitner's prophetic voice calling us to implement the social dimension of the Gospel has won the respect of his peers," Father Kammer said. "He built a strong local